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What a Long Strange Road It Was:
Florida's experience with Sunset Review

Gary VanLandingham
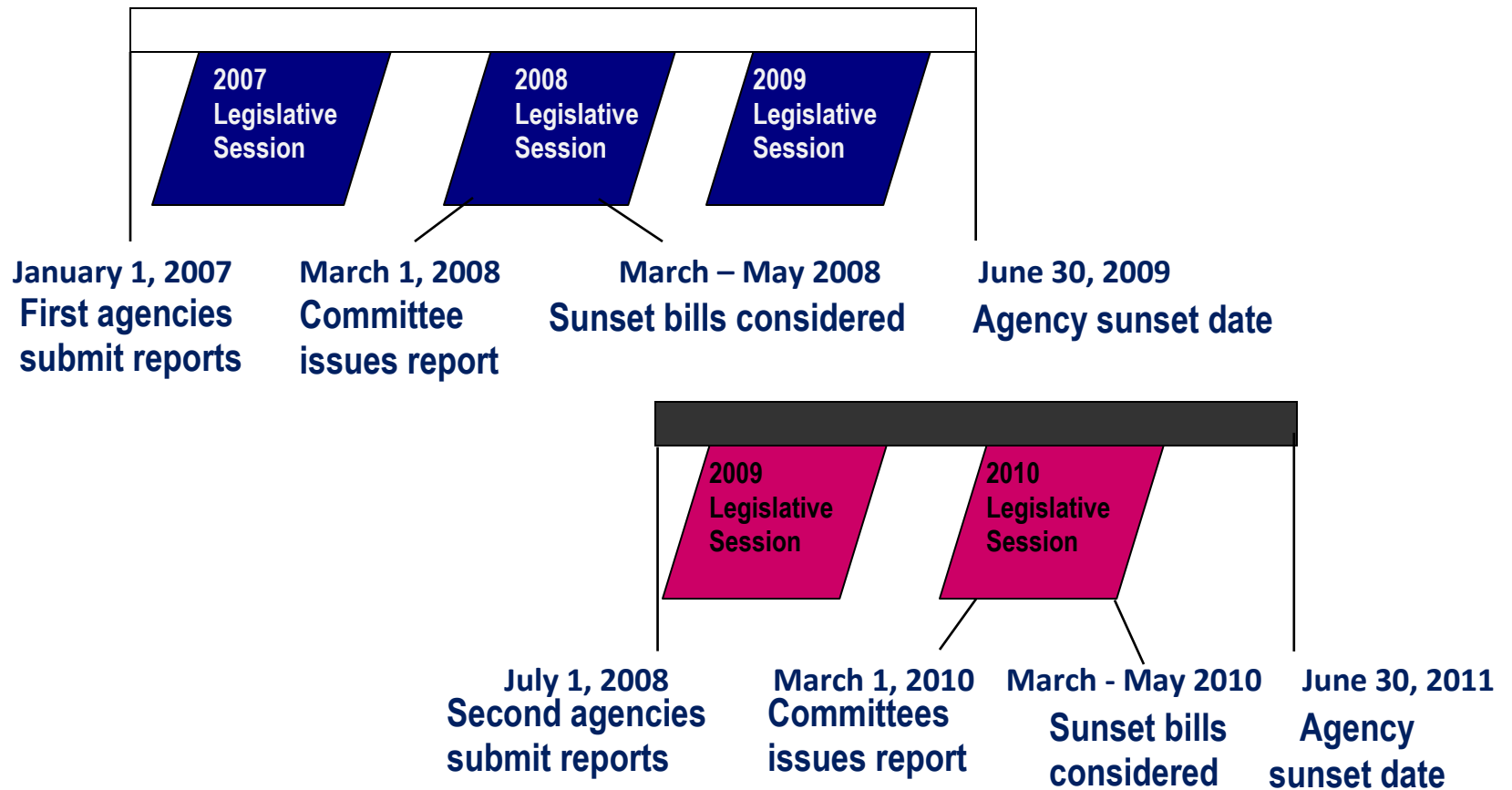**Director, Results First**

Florida process in a nutshell

- **Established by the 2006 Legislature to review all agencies and advisory bodies**

- **Managed by joint committee that examined agencies on 2-year cycle**

- **Required agencies to justify programs and report outcomes**

- **OPPAGA provided research support and assessed agency performance and options**

- **Joint committee issued recommendations to substantive committees**

General objective

- **Provide a comprehensive review of state agencies and programs to identify unnecessary activities, ferret out waste and eliminate overly protectionist regulatory activities**

- **Force action by indicating that agencies were subject to elimination if Legislature did not reauthorize them**

Sunset Review Timeline

2007 Legislative Session

2008 Legislative Session

2009 Legislative Session

January 1, 2007
First agencies submit reports

March 1, 2008
Committee issues report

March – May 2008
Sunset bills considered

June 30, 2009
Agency sunset date

2009 Legislative Session

2010 Legislative Session

July 1, 2008
Second agencies submit reports

March 1, 2010
Committees issues report

March - May 2010
Sunset bills considered

June 30, 2011
Agency sunset date

Agency Review Schedule

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2009-10	2011-12	2013-14	2015-16
▪ Department of Children and Family Services ▪ Department of Community Affairs ▪ Department of Management Services ▪ Department of State	▪ Community College System Advisory Committees ▪ State University System Advisory Committees ▪ Agency for Workforce Innovation ▪ Department of Education ▪ Department of Lottery	▪ Agency for Health Care Administration ▪ Agency for Persons with Disabilities ▪ Department of Elder Affairs ▪ Department of Health	▪ Department of Business and Professional Regulation ▪ Department of Transportation ▪ Department of Veterans' Affairs

OPPAGA research support

- **Provided background reports on agencies and advisory bodies**

- **Analyzed each advisory body to assess costs and continued need for existence**

- **Analyzed issues identified by Sunset and other legislative committees**

- **Provided ongoing research support to committee staff and members**

Florida Sunset impact

- **Eliminated some obsolete advisory bodies**

- **Made relatively minor changes in authorizing statutes**

- **Did not eliminate or materially change any reviewed agencies**

- **Sunset itself was eliminated after two cycles**

Florida challenges

- **Sunset was viewed as a House initiative; Senate support was lukewarm (although it was far more organized)**

- **Sunset was not closely tied to substantive or budget committee processes or to either chamber**

- **Agency focus required major learning curve as Florida is highly consolidated – 30 agencies with many programs**

- **Process often got hung up on minor issues with little fiscal impact; sometimes chased rabbit trails**

- **"Death penalty" provision (agency killed if not reauthorized) proved unworkable**

- **Political support fell dramatically after sponsor left Legislature**

Suggestions for California

- **Partner with other oversight resources including Hoover Commission, budget staff, Legislative Analyst, and State Auditor**

- **Keep workload reasonable – look at a few related agencies each year rather than all government**

- **Expect that the process will need to mature, but look for early successes and low hanging fruit**

Based on Washington State work

- **Models developed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)**

- **Washington State has used this approach for many years to help reduce costs and achieve better outcomes**

  – **Example: Avoided $1.3 billion per biennium in criminal justice costs AND achieved lower crime rate**

Approach in a nutshell

1. Aggregate the best national research to identify evidence-based programs that work

2. Apply research estimates of program impact to California's population

3. Use California fiscal data to estimate total costs and benefits for each program

4. Consider predicted return on investment for both individual programs and program package as a whole

Example model outputs

	Change In Crime	Benefits less costs, per-person, life cycle (Probability: you lose $)
Adult Offenders		
Cog-Behavioral Treatment	-7%	$12,037 (<1%)
Adult Drug Courts	-9%	$6,264 (<1%)
Prison Education	-8%	$13,555 (<1%)
Drug Treatment in Prison	-6%	$9,588 (<1%)
IST: surveillance	-2%	-$2,174 (≈82%)
ISP: treatment	-18%	$15,079 (≈11%)
Juvenile Offenders		
Functional Family Therapy	-18%	$32,021 (<1%)
Multisystemic Therapy	-13%	$18,120 (<1%)
Aggression Replacement	-9%	$15,257 (<1%)
Family Transitions	-10%	$29,721 (≈5%)
Therapeutic Foster Care	-18%	$64,486 (<1%)
Prevention*		
Pre-School* (low income)	-17%	$+++* (n/a)
Nurse Family Partnership*	-16%	$+++* (n/a)

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* Programs have a number of other non-crime benefits; only crime-reduction reported here.

Policy areas in current model

- Criminal justice

- K-12 education

- Child welfare

- Substance abuse

- Mental health

- Health

- Public assistance

- Housing

- Teen birth

- **Identifying and prioritizing proven good investments**

- **Reducing or eliminating poor investments instead of relying on across-the-board cuts**

- **The cost-benefit analysis models can be a great tool in making these decisions**

- **Train California staff in using cost-benefit analysis**

- **Provide technical assistance in getting the models up and running**

- **Provide help in interpreting cost benefit analysis results**

- **Enable states that are using this approach share lessons learned and strengthen state policymaking**

For more information

- **Results First – Pew Center on the States:**

  - http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=61282

- **Florida Sunset Process:**

  - http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/shell.aspx?pagepath=sunset.htm